Research Plan Proposal

A Study of Women Empowerment with Special Reference to Jaipur City

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INTRODUCTION

Empowerment refers to the process by which those who have been denied the ability to make choices acquire such ability. To estimate the degree of empowerment of women in a particular country, the most important criterion is the status of women. It is generally accepted that a change in the economic status of women is a good indicator of empowerment of women as well as development of nation. Empowerment cannot be defined in terms of specific activities or end results because it involves a process whereby women can freely analyze, develop and voice their needs and interests. Women constitute half of the population of the world and affect the growth of the remaining half. Women play an important role in all the fields of development, so it is important that they should be socially and economically strong. The economic status of women in general, is not very good and they are the ones who are worst hit by poverty. Empowering women is the only solution for all their problems. Hence it is essential to study the past and present position of women and suggest measures for their betterment.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A comprehensive review of literature is most essential before going for research endeavours because it helps in keeping a track with recent developments, thereby providing a sound theoretical frame work for research.

The primary objective of reviewing literature is to understand the previous work that has been in the subject and to check out the research endeavours with focus on the unexplored aspects of the problem. (Kothari, 2000)

Shaul (1982) in her study emphasizes on women empowerment and local governments. Her study examines the change in the participation of women in local government during the past few decades. Her study reveals that there has been an increasing political participation of women over the years. At the same time, many of the formidable barriers to women playing a more prominent role in public decision making and administration still exist.

Padmini & Krishnamoorthy (1994) discussed the demographic and socio-economic participation of women in different family structures in a rural area of south India. The data for their study was drawn from a sample survey conducted in a rural area of Tamil Nadu. They concluded that women in extended type families have a better literacy level than those in nuclear and sub nuclear families. Those who live in sub nuclear families were generally widowed or separated and have a

low literacy level and poor economic condition and were generally employed in low status occupation. Hence the fear that literacy and education of women may lead to disintegration of extended families is not supported by their study.

Hakim & Aziz (1998) in their paper have given an overview of socio-cultural, religious and political background of Pakistani society and examined the current status of women. They have utilized the data from Pakistan Fertility and Family Planning Survey 1996-97. They have emphasized that low status of women in society was one of the many factors, which interfere with the achievement of development goals in Pakistan. Some other indicators , such as education of women , employment of women, women's participation in domestic and child related decisions , women's mobility , communication about family planning were also discussed in this paper . The result revealed that there was a little improvement in social indicators of status of women in Pakistan, which restricts their participation in education and the labour force.

Rustagi (2002) discussed the women participation in the eastern region of India covering the states of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal. The objective of the study was to examine whether the eastern region more egalitarian towards women or not. Various indicators like demographic, educational, socio-cultural, health-related and economic indicators are used for this study. This study concludes that there are many districts in the region where a high proportion of

women work as main workers. Child sex ratio in the eastern region is higher than the all-India average. Both these indicators of female work participation rates and child sex ratios are observed to be low in economically prosperous areas. Overall the eastern region stands out as a woman-friendly area for a majority of the selected indicators.

Kumar & Paul (2002) in their study develop conceptual clarity of the term empowerment delineating it with several other overlapping concepts of gender equality, social inclusion, powerful etc. and suggest and advocate an inclusive approach of policy measures whereby the planners working towards an empowerment approach develop ways enabling women themselves to critically review their own situation and participate in creating and shaping the society as agents of change themselves. They concluded that mere celebrations of the statistical swells in Female Work Participation Rates does not ensure women's empowered status, rather the quality of work involved is also an important determinant.

Musiimenta (2002) in his study discussed the importance of urban agriculture to urban dwellers' livelihoods and specifically to women who dominate the informal sector. It shows that women dominate urban agriculture due to a number of socio-economic factors that include gender division of labour, low incomes, food security and desire to earn personal income. This paper also discusses the relative empowerment function of urban agriculture to women. It brings out the argument that despite its marginalized consideration as a land use activity, urban agriculture

improved the socio- economic status of urban women. This paper is based on a research that was carried out in two selected divisions of Nakawa and Makindye in Kampala City, Uganda, in 1997. This study revealed that since Kampala still has a lot of vacant pieces of land in and around the city, Kampala City Council and any other concerned urban authority should zone areas for small-scale agriculture such as horticulture, mushroom growing, chicken production and some vegetable production. This would improve on food security in the city and create employment for the many people on the streets of Kampala, especially women who constitute the majority of the urban poor.

Banerji & Sen (2003) in their book discussed the role of women in economic development and according to them the development of women as well as development by women became inter-related issues for the economic development of India. They concluded that women's participation in education, social life, industrialization, science and technology, employment as well as in politics began to increase day-by-day. Their book consisted of 33 articles written on various aspects of women and economic development, these articles focus both on international and national aspects of the issues with special reference to the Indian economy and its development.

Findings of **Kishore and Gupta (2004)** revealed that there were several cogent and pressing reasons for evaluating, promoting and monitoring the level of

women's empowerment in India, not the least of which was that household health and nutrition was generally in the hands of women and their empowerment was necessary for ensuring not just their own welfare, but the wellbeing of households. They also asserted that empowerment was critical for the very development of India, as it enhanced the quality and quantity of human resources available for development.

Sridevi (2005) in his study discussed, on women empowerment by systematically and consistently characterizing the empowerment of women. By characterizing the women empowerment he tries to obtain a scientific measure of empowerment. The measure obtained in his paper is argued to be scientific because the theoretical model is proved to be more realistic by building another empirical model to capture the self-perception of the women, for their empowerment. He concluded that whenever the standard of living of women is higher they give equal weightage for all the characteristic features or attributes considered as women empowerment.

Deshpande & Sethi (2010) in their paper discussed about the role and position of women empowerment in Indian society. They also emphasis various government schemes to improve the status of women in the society. Various problems faced by women in Indian society were also discussed in this paper. They concluded that there needs to develop a sociological approach that views women's empowerment largely as a property of social systems, also stratification systems and their

ideologies. Community can explain more variation in the empowerment of individual women than can their personal and household characteristics.

Ahmed et.al., (2011) in their paper studied the impact of microcredit programme on rural women's contribution in improving the household income. The study is based on empirical data collected through interview from the two groups of rural women e.g. 'with credit' and 'without credit' rural women. The 'with credit' respondents represent the rural women who have taken loan from the Grammeen Bank's microcredit programme. The multiple regression analysis shows that there were strong positive effects of age of respondent, level of education, family size, earning member, occupation of respondent's and also monthly income of respondent's while status of marriage has a strong negative effect. It was found that majority of the 'with credit' respondents contribute much higher to the family incomes than the 'without credit' respondents. It was also found that with 'credit rural' women have improved their socio-economic status and income generating activities by participating microcredit programmes of Grameen Bank.

Kumar (2011) discussed how the participation of women is related to Economic development. This paper attempts to highlight issues related to women's status in India. The indices are developed for demographic, health, economic and educational status separately and then all the scores are summed up to arrive at the women's status Index (WSI) for the fourteen states under study. The paper is based

on following objectives, to examine the inter-state differences in the status parameters and changes therein over time, to prepare composite index of development of women's status at the state level, to examine the relationship between economic (overall) development on the one hand, and women's status on the other hand, and finally to recommend appropriate policies for reducing the inequalities that exists. The study revealed that Punjab, Haryana, Kerala, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have continued to occupy higher ranks in the index of economic development over time, while states like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have continued to lag behind. On the whole the ranks in economic development and ranks in women's status too are highly correlated to each other.

Tewari & Dwivedi (2011) in their study makes an attempt to analyze the demographic factors of farm women. The total sample of the study comprised of 100 farm women drawn purposively by proportionate random sampling method from four villages of Milkipur Block of Faizabad District, Uttar Pradesh (INDIA). The demographic variables viz., age, education, caste, family type, family size, land holding, housing pattern, occupation, income and material possession were studied through a general information schedule. They concluded that majority of farm women were old age, literate, of backward caste, having joint family and large family size, marginal and belong to medium socio-economic status. They also suggested some measures to improve the socio-economic status of women.

Mundra & Singh (2012) in their paper study the Economic Status of Women of different caste groups, by considering its relationship with Income Level of the family and Level of Exposure respectively. Economic Status of Women has been used in terms of aggregate of Material Economic Status and Abstract Economic Status. The study finds that the parameters which are taken under the variable, Level of Exposure of Woman, presents the true and achieved status of the women of the different caste groups irrespective of the high level of family Income. They used regression test to analysis the results.

Parvin, (2012) in her book "Empowerment of Women- strategies and systems for gender justice" traces the position of women in a historical perspective, reviews the reason for the subordination of women analysis the indicators of women development in India, evaluates the need for the empowerment of women clarifies the concept of empowerment of women with its varied components and aspects analyses the ongoing approaches and strategies of the government in the economic empowerment of women gives insights into the development perspectives of the non-governmental organizations in women empowerment and suggests some possible strategies for the real economic empowerment of women in society.

Nagaraja (2013) in his paper primarily deals with "empowerment of women" in India and throws light on particularly agency approach to measure women empowerment. Divided into three sections, his paper presents the illustration of

modern approach to empowerment in Section-I; an overview of the efforts put in India for empowering women in Section-II and analyses the degree of achievement of empowerment by adopting some of the modern indicators in Section-III. This paper hinges fundamentally on secondary sources of data related to India, published by National Family Health Survey, National Sample Survey Organization and some of the research papers. He concluded that though the concepts –empowerment, agency and autonomy have been used interchangeably, in practice it is found that they can substantially diverge from each other and are may not reflect into the other.

Gupta et.al., (2013) in their paper discuss about the discrimination against women in a matrilineal society in the Khasi tribe of Meghalaya. The objectives of their study were to investigate whether gender discrimination against women in any form exists in Khasi Community and if gender discrimination is found, then in which particular domain it exists. For this they have randomly selected sample of 681 respondents from 3 districts of Meghalaya that are predominantly inhabited by Khasis. They considered parameters like employment, food intake, health, education, allocation of household work and participation in decision making for their study. Their study reveal the existence of some amount of gender discrimination against women in spheres of employment, education, participation in decision making, health, domestic violence and abuse. So their study concluded

that discrimination against women is an unfortunate reality among the Khasi community of Meghalaya.

Makhija et.al., (2013) in their paper discussed women empowerment, entrepreneurship and economic growth. They highlighted the background and the present scenario of women empowerment and their economic growth through entrepreneurship. They also discussed the challenges faces by women in present era. They concluded that entrepreneurship among women improves the wealth of the nation in general and of the family in particular. According to them women entrepreneurship must be moulded properly with entrepreneurial traits and skills to meet the changes in trends, challenges, global markets and also strive for excellence in the entrepreneurial arena.

John & Mishra (2013) in their paper discussed challenges faced by rural women entrepreneurs in Rajasthan. They highlighted the status of women entrepreneurs in India and factors motivating rural women entrepreneurs. The objective of their study was to examine the problems/challenges faced by small- scale women entrepreneurs in Rajasthan and to suggest certain remedial measures to solve the problems of rural entrepreneurs in Rajasthan. Their study was exploratory in nature. Primary data was collected using survey method through interview schedule. Women entrepreneurs were identified using quota sampling method. The study was carried out in Alwar and Kota districts of Rajasthan. 60 rural women

entrepreneurs were selected randomly for the study. It came to light from their study that women entrepreneurs and their enterprise played a major role in financial up gradation of their family. They concluded that rural women entrepreneurs can play a significant role in the socio-economic development of country like India whose heart lies in rural India. Empowerment of women has a rich payoff in economic development and egalitarian goals of the society and entrepreneurship is the most viable option for empowering women.

Nampalli & Sarma (2013) in their paper discussed economic empowerment of women using microfinance. They discussed that microfinance helps the neglected group (women, poor, rural, deprived, etc) to increase their income and build viable business. Access to credit allows this group to take advantage of economic opportunities for their homes, their domestic environment and their communities. Their study assesses the role of microfinance on the living conditions of the individual households in the pre-Self Help Groups and post- Self Help Groups scenario. They concluded that microfinance significantly improved the poor respondents' access to financial services and had a considerable positive impact on the human development of Self Help Groups members in the post- Self Help Groups period as compared to the pre- Self Help Groups period.

Gurnani (2014) discussed the role of vocational training and education in development of women. The objectives for her study were to know the challenges

and issues of vocational education and training in India and to suggest some appropriate strategies in this regard. Her study is descriptive in nature and based on secondary data collected through various books, newspapers, journals etc. she concluded that vocational training and education helps in women development and should be promoted.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the research work is to study the status of women empowerment of both working and non working women in Jaipur city. The indicators taken for the study will be- consumption pattern, economic security, decision making, mobility & visibility, access to and management of resources, self esteem, self respect, awareness, etc.

HYPOTHESIS

The null hypothesis for the present study is that there is no difference in the empowerment level of working and non working women in Jaipur City.

METHODOLOGY

The study will be based on both primary and secondary data. The published and unpublished material in the form of books, reports, journals, periodicals and newspaper clippings will be used. The study will be conducted in Jaipur City. A sample size of 400 women (200 working and 200 non working women) will be

selected using convenience sampling method. The primary data will be collected using questionnaire which will comprise of both social and economic aspects. The data will be reviewed using various statistical tools.

The proposed study will be organized in the following tentative chapters

- Introduction
- Empowerment of Women in India
- A Study of Women Empowerment of Jaipur City: Data Analysis
- Results & Conclusion
- Suggestions

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